

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 17, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants cancel Claims 1-13 and 21 and amend Claim 14. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are directed to allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 14 by including the limitation of Claim 21, which places amended Claim 14 in condition for allowance. In addition, all other claims are allowable because they depend from independent Claim 14. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Section 103(a) Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 14-17, 19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 0764627 issued to Ohkoshi et al. (“EP ’627”) in view of Applicants’ Disclosure of Admitted Prior Art (“AAPA”). For the reasons stated above, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Thomas A. Beaton
Reg. No. 46,543
PHONE: (214) 953-6464

Date: 9/15/05

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer Number: **05073**
Attorney Docket No.: 064977.0133